

The Mayor and Council of Hurlock

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JOYCE A. SPRATT
MAYOR
JOHN H. AVERY
CLERK / TREASURER
ROBERT MERRIKEN
ATTORNEY

COUNCIL MEMBERS
CHARLES T. CEPHAS, SR.
PARKER J. DURHAM
BONNIE FRANZ
EARL H. MURPHY
JERRY L. RHUE, SR.

MINUTES OPEN WORK SESSION December 9, 2013 7:10 P.M.

Mayor Spratt called the Open Work Session of December 9, 2013, to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Hurlock Town Office located at 311 Charles Street. Council members Durham, Rhue, Franz, Cephas, and Murphy were in attendance along with Mayor Spratt, Clerk Avery and Robert Merriken.

Mayor Spratt explained the reason for the meeting was her idea. There is nothing that has to be decided on at this time. The Mayor reminded the council members to meet on Jackson Street at 11:30 on Saturday for the parade. There will be bags of candy to be given out.

Mayor Spratt suggested that with the 3 new council members and 2 council members returning that now was a good time to set some ground rules, including what information should be brought to the public. There have been times when meetings have gotten out of hand. Three hours is too long for a meeting.

If a council member has a question, he/she could come to the Mayor or to Clerk Avery for an answer. Mayor Spratt used an example; if a problem arises in the Town and a council member becomes aware of it, bring it to them first. If it is a minor problem it could possibly be corrected and would not need to be brought to a meeting. The Mayor stated she wants everyone to be able to communicate with one another. Information can be relayed via email.

Clerk Avery interjected that 3 council members may not meet together; that would constitute a quorum. Two members could meet and discuss an issue, but not 3. Councilman Durham felt that the council might need to be cautious regarding emails that are sent. Anything in writing can end up in public. Mr. Merriken concurred with Council member Durham that all written word is public record due to the Public Information Act, unless it is legal advice. Personnel matters are confidential.

Clerk Avery said he would be happy to answer or try to find an answer to any council members question.

Councilman Cephas expressed his feelings that all council members need to have thick skin and be open to work with the Mayor and other council members. The likes and dislikes of any council members should be put aside and do your job. The Mayor and Council need to move forward and not waste 4 years.

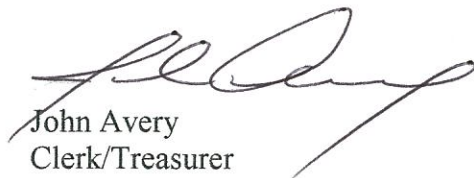
Councilman Murphy reiterated what Councilman Cephas stated.

Mayor Spratt wanted to stress that attendance at meetings is very important. She had further discussion on council members doing things for the people in the Town; helping one family in your district, do a fund raiser for a family, put someone's newspaper on their step, etc. There was considerable discussion on this topic.

There was discussion regarding training for council members.

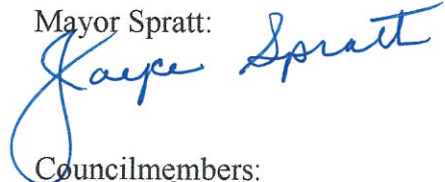
With no further discussion, the Open Work Session was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,


John Avery
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

Mayor Spratt:



Councilmembers:

Rev. Charles Cephas Sr.
Brett Murphy Jr.
Bonnie Mann
Parker